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## **City of Mountain View Public Library INTERNET ACCESS POLICY**

### **Why provide Internet Access**

Access to the Internet is offered at many locations in our Library in keeping with our role in providing equal access to information and resources to meet the educational, informational and recreational reading needs of people in our community. The Internet, a world-wide network of computers, offers a vast array of information sources and opinions which significantly enhances the Library collection and provides additional learning opportunities to members of the community.

### **Library does not regulate the Internet**

It is important to realize, however, that currently the Internet is an unregulated network. There is no government or private agency monitoring the accuracy, currency or suitability of its content. This means that there is material on the Internet that some members of our community may find unsuitable or without value.

The City of Mountain View Public Library has placed filtering software on the Internet computers in Children's Services. Otherwise the Library does not restrict children's use of the Internet. All computer screens are located in public areas. Users should be aware that it is illegal to display pornographic material to minors.

### **Library does not restrict use**

The Library staff can recommend interesting and reliable Internet sources for users to explore, but, as with other information resources, staff does not restrict what individuals choose to read, listen to or view. It is the responsibility of each person to choose the topic of their Internet search. We advise users to be active information consumers when using this, or any other resource.

### **Parent or guardians control Internet use by their children**

In the case of children using the Internet, as with their use of any other Library materials, parents or guardians are expected to guide and supervise their children's use by selecting material that is consistent with their personal values. Library staff will not assume this parental role. The Library does not restrict in any way children's use of the Internet.

**Approved by Library Board  
May 19, 1997**

**Approved by City Council  
March 31, 1998**